

Portsmouth Agriculture Committee

November 20, 2013, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Portsmouth Town Hall, 2200 East Main Road

AGENDA

Call to order at 6:00 p.m.

- Welcome new Committee Members
- Approve October meeting minutes

OLD BUSINESS

- Status Update/Brief of Agricultural component of Portsmouth's Comprehensive Plan.
- Status Update/Brief on NH and Washington state GMO Labeling legislation/Vote
- Status Update/Brief of RI Agricultural Partnership projects including their Agricultural Guidelines and their upgraded website
- Status Update/Brief of current farmer projects in Portsmouth and on Aquidneck Island

NEW BUSINESS

- Status Update/Brief of Events of interest to farmers and growers:
 - Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Training, URI, Nov. 20 Learn more at www.whatgrowsonri.com/calendar.html#/i=3 (select RI Grower event on Nov 20)
 - Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) Farmer Grants available – submission deadline Dec. 2. Learn more at www.nesare.org/Grants/Get-a-Grant/Farmer-Grant
 - New England Fruit and Vegetable Conference, Dec. 17 - 19, Learn more at <http://www.newenglandvfc.org>
 - CT Landscapers winter meeting, Jan 3 - 4 – Learn more at www.flowersplantsinct.com/cnla_winter_symposium.htm
 - NOFA/Mass Winter Conference, Jan. 11, Worcester, MA. Learn more at www.nofamass.org/winterconference (Sanne will be presenting there).
 - RI Nursery & Landscape Winter Conference, URI, Jan. 16 & 17, 2014. Learn more at www.rinla.org/events
 - Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) Winter Conferences in seven northeast states from Feb. – Mar. 2014. Learn more at <http://nofa.org/winter.php>
 - New England Grows, Feb. 5 – 7, Boston . Learn more at www.newenglandgrows.org
 - NOFA/RI Winter Conference & Annual Meeting, "The Past, Present & Future of Organics" Feb. 16, 2014, Blithewold, Bristol. Learn more at <http://nofari.org/events/our-events>.
 - Ecological Landscape Association Winter Conference & Eco-Marketplace, Feb. 26 & 27, 2014. Springfield, MA. Learn more at www.ecolandscaping.org/conference
 - URI Master Gardeners Symposium, Mar. 1, URI
 - CT NOFA Winter Conference, Mar. 5 . Learn more at www.ctnofa.org/winterconference
 - Compost Conference, Salve Regina University, Mar. 10
 - "Welcoming Pollinators to your Garden or Farm," on Earth Day, Apr. 22, Portsmouth Library (Sanne will be presenting there.)
 - URI East Farm Spring Festival, URI Master Gardeners, May 10
 - Newport Flower Show, "Journey: Grand Vistas," June 27-29, 2014. Learn more at www.newportmansions.org/events/newport-flower-show. (Sanne will be presenting there.)
 - See a national list of conferences at www.hortcalendar.com/Events/3125/2014-direct-gardening-association-winter-conference.aspx
- Request for future agenda items - suggestions included:
 - Review pending updates/briefs listed above
- Next meeting January 29, 2014 Future meetings, final Wednesdays, alternate off months 6 to 8 p.m. The May and/or July meeting(s) may be rescheduled due to peak farmer commitments that month.

ADJOURN

The public is welcome to any meeting of the Town's boards or its committees. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captions) is needed or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please contact the Town Clerk's office at (401) 683-2101 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting.

THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN HALL IS HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE. THOSE PERSONS REQUIRING ASSISTANCE SHOULD CONTACT THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE AT 683-2101 PRIOR TO ANY MEETING.